

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3128

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 22276

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (FOREIGN MINISTER CHATCHAI CHUNHAWAN) TH

SUBJECT: CHATCHAI DELAYS HIS VISIT TO WASHINGTON

REF: STATE 245384

1. KON THAPPARANGSI, SECRETARY TO FOREIGN MINISTER CHATCHAI, TOLD AN EMBASSY OFFICER OCTOBER 21 THAT CHATCHAI WISHES TO POSTPONE HIS CALL ON THE SECRETARY UNTIL THE LAST WEEK OF NOVEMBER RATHER THAN LATE OCTOBER (REFTEL. KON READ A COPY OF MFA'S TELEGRAM TO AMBASSADOR ANAN WHICH MENTIONED THAT CHATCHAI WAS BUSY "CLEARING UP SOME DIFFICULTIES WITH NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES." THE NATION OF OCTOBER 21 REPORTED CHATCHAI HAD DELAYED TRIP TO U.S., AND VOA OCT. 21 CARRIED SIMILAR STORY.

2. CAUSE OF CHANGE IN CHATCHAI'S PLANS BECAME APPARENT LATER ON OCT. 21 WHEN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS SPOKESMAN, NITSAI WETCHACHIWA, ANNOUNCED THAT FOREIGN MINISTER HAD RECEIVED CABLE FROM AMBASSADOR ANAN SAYING THAT CAMBODIAN DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER IENG SARY WOULD ARRIVE IN BANGKOK OCT. 28 AND REMAIN UNTIL NOV. 1. IENG SARY WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY TWO OR THREE OTHER PEOPLE, BUT NAMES NOT YET AVAILABLE.

3. COMMENT: RTG HAS LONG AND PATIENTLY SOUGHT TO IMPROVE ITS RELATIONS WITH ITS COMMUNIST NEIGHBORS, AND IN THIS LIGHT IT IS LOGICAL THAT CHATCHAI WOULD POSTPONE TRIP TO WASHINGTON TO BE PRESENT FOR VISIT TO BANGKOK OF IENG SARY. WE RECOMMEND THAT DEPT SEEK TO ACCOMMODATE CHATCHAI'S
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REQUEST FOR APPOINTMENT WITH SECRETARY IN LAST WEEK OF

NOVEMBER. CHATCHAI WILL BE RECEIVING GERMAN FOREIGN
MINISTER GENSCHER DURING THIRD WEEK OF NOVEMBER AND SO
COULD NOT LEAVE BANGKOK ANY EARLIER. WE UNDERSTAND
HEAVY DEMANDS ON SECRETARY'S TIME IN NOVEMBER AND
DECEMBER.
WHITEHOUSE

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